evolved in consultation with the State Government/Union Territories Administration. One of the suggestions being considered in the said draft Action Plan is the constitution of a Population Commission, details of which are yet to be finalised.

[*Translation*]

Rail Accidents

815. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in rail accidents/derailments since July 1991 till date;

(b) if so, the numbers thereof and the main causes thereof;

(c) the details of the loss of life and property caused by these accidents/derailment during the said period;

(d) the details of compensation paid to the families of deceased and to those injured; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such accidents/derailments in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). There has been no increase in train accidents on Indian Railways. There were 186 train accidents during the period July-October 1991 as against 205 during the corresponding period of 1990. The accidents were mainly due to human failure, equipment failure and sabotage. 79 persons (including 58 passengers) lost their lives in these accidents. The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at Rs.5.90 crores.

(d) No compensation has been paid so far. However, a sum of Rs. 7.51 lakhs has been paid as ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the deceased and the injured.

(e) Some of the important steps being taken to reduce the accidents are induction of technical devices to aid the human element, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations, monitoring the performance of the staff of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards, station masters, etc., intensive training including psychological checks of staff in operational categories, surprise checks against carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger trains, provision of whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossing and improving visibility for road users and train drivers.

Control of Goitre

816. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons suffering from goitre in the country; State-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes formulated to control the disease; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for its implementation?